

Executive Registry
7-3092

8 AUG 1955

Dear Foster:

In line with our conversation of a week ago, I am enclosing, together with a one-page cover memorandum, two copies of the publication, "Justice Enslaved", put out by the International Commission of Jurists.

Also enclosed are two copies of the ICJ's "Act of Athens", being a declaration of principles agreed upon by the Commission in its Congress in Athens of June this year.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles
Director

v

The Honorable John Foster Dulles
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington 25, D. C.

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O/DIC/[REDACTED] :em (8 Aug 55)
1 - DIV (via Reading)
1 - FMC chrono
1 - ER [initials]

SUBJECT: First Congress of the International Commission
of Jurists (ICJ), Athens, Greece, 13-20 June 1955

1. Attached herewith are two copies of the ICJ publication "Justice Enslaved," which documents the abuse of justice for political ends in the Soviet Union and Satellite States. This constituted the basic material around which the First Congress of the ICJ was built.
2. The ICJ grew out of a meeting held in Berlin in 1952, at which jurists from forty countries unanimously condemned the systematic perversion of justice in East Germany. The delegates, feeling that their work should be expanded, established a standing committee from which the ICJ has evolved. The purpose of the ICJ is to document and condemn the systematic subversion of the law which invariably accompanies totalitarian systems, particularly of the Communist variety. The ICJ attempts, through publications and radio presentations, to give moral encouragement to members of the legal profession behind the Iron Curtain, and to stimulate a militant stand by Free World jurists in defense of the rule of law.
3. To consider and dramatize the evidence collected by the ICJ over a two-year period, the Commission convened its First Congress in Athens 13-20 June 1955. Assembled to examine the evidence were 148 prominent jurists from 49 countries, including justices of supreme courts, members of parliament, deans of law schools and professors of universities, as well as a former prime minister and many lower judges. The U. S. delegation was headed by former Assistant Secretary of State, James Grafton Rogers, and Dudley Bonsal, prominent New York attorney. The Congress achieved its major objective -- unanimous condemnation by the delegates of the systematic destruction of the rule of law in the Communist countries of Eastern Europe. A major Congress achievement was the adoption of the so-called "Act of Athens" calling upon jurists the world over to support and defend the rule of law. Called "The Lawyers' Hippocratic Oath," the Act is believed to be the first effort by an international assembly of lawyers to formulate a universally acceptable code to which the disparate legal elements of the Free World could adhere. Publicity for the Congress was satisfactory; the London Times gave extensive coverage, and USIA, RFE and other radio outlets fully exploited the meeting.

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4. The Congress demonstrated that the large majority of delegates firmly believe in the importance of the Commission's function in international affairs. Plans are currently being elaborated to expand the publication programs, to exploit the interest aroused amongst Congress delegates, and to increase use of available radio facilities for exposing Communist prostitution of justice.

Attachment:
"Justice Enslaved"

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[redacted] (4 August 1955)

Distribution:

2 - Secretary of State w/att. (2 copies)
2 - DCI
1 - RI
1 - C/IO
1 - IO Chrono
2 - [redacted]

STAT

ACT OF ATHENS

We free Jurists from forty-nine countries, assembled in Athens at the invitation of the International Commission of Jurists, being devoted to the Rule of Law which springs from the rights of the individual developed through history in the age-old struggle of mankind for freedom; which rights include freedom of Speech, press, worship, assembly and association and the right to free elections to the end that laws are enacted by the duly elected representatives of the people and afford equal protection to all,

Being concerned by the disregard of the Rule of Law in various parts of the world, and being convinced that the maintenance of the fundamental principles of justice is essential to a lasting peace throughout the world,

Do solemnly declare that:

1. The State is subject to the law.
2. Governments should respect the rights of the individual under the Rule of Law and provide effective means for their enforcement.
3. Judges should be guided by the Rule of Law, protect and enforce it without fear or favor and resist any encroachments by governments or political parties on their independence as judges.
4. Lawyers of the world should preserve the independence of their profession, assert the rights of the individual under the Rule of Law and insist that every accused is accorded a fair trial.

And we call upon all judges and lawyers to observe these principles and

Request the International Commission of Jurists to dedicate itself to the universal acceptance of these principles and expose and denounce all violations of the Rule of Law.

Done at Athens this 18th day of June, 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT: Report on the First Congress of the International Commission of Jurists

Attached is the condensed report on the First Congress of the International Commission of Jurists, which you wish to give to the Secretary of State.

[Redacted]
CORD MEYER, Jr.

Chief

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[Redacted]

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Attachment:
Report on ICJ

Card to Set Up 8/5